Jn 1971

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

St. Stephen's, Milnrow & Littleborough

ST. STEPHENS DIARY

January		
Fri.	2nd	1-30pm Visit to Pantomime
Sun.	4th	11.00 Rev. A. Nash
		6.00pm Service of Word & Sacrament
		Reception of Elders
Mon.	5th	6.30pm Pilots re-open (& each Monday)
		8.15pm Efforts Committee Meeting
Tue.	6th	7.30pm Ladies Guild A.G.M.
Wed.	7th	2pm Young Mums (& each Wednesday)
		7.30pm Whist Drive (each Wednesday)
Sun.	11th	11.00am Mrs M. Nash
		6.00pm Mr J.M. Farraday
Wed.	14th	7.30pm Elders Meeting
Fri.	16th	7.30pm Tea and Toast Evening
		Slides by Audrey and Pauline
Sun.	18th	11.00am Family Communion
		6.00pm Rev. A. Nash
Wed.	21st	7.30pm Teachers' Meeting
Sun.	25th	11.00am Mr A. Cooper
		6.00pm Rev. A. Nash
Wed.	28th	7.30pm Annual Church Meeting
Fri.	30th	7.00pm Jumble Sale (Young Mums)
February		
Sun.	1st	11.00am Rev. A. Nash
		6.00pm Service of Word & Sacrament
Tue.	3rd	7.30pm An evening with our Minister

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FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Jan.	4th	Mrs A. Wood	Mrs D. Howorth
	11th	Mrs F. Whitworth	Mrs J. Cudworth
	18th	Mrs G. Buckley	
	25th	Mrs G. Whittaker	Miss M. Wood
		Mrs D. Butterworth	

BIBLE READINGS - JANUARY			
4th	Matthew 6	v. 25-34	"God cares"
11th	Luke 5	v. 27-35	"Welcome to all"
18th	Jeremiah 1	v. 4-13	"Put away childish things".
25th	Isaiah 40	v. 26-31	"Neither weary nor faint".

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

January

Fri.	2nd	7.00pm	Junior Church Party
Sat.	3rd	2.30pm-5.00pm	Primary Party
Sun.	4th	10.30am	Mr J. Lord
Wed.	7th	6.45pm	The Pilots
Thur.	8th	7.30pm	Men's Fellowship - Annual Party!!!!!
Sun.	11th	10.30am	Rev. A. Nash
		6.00pm	Rev. A. Nash - Communion
Wed.	14th	6.45pm	The Pilots
Sun.	18th	10.30am	Mrs Nash
Tues.	20th	7.30pm	Womens Guild
Wed.	21st	6.45pm	The Pilots
Sun.	25th	10.30am	Rev. A. Nash
Mon.	26th	7.15pm	ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING (NOTE TIME)
Wed.	28th	6.45pm	Pilots

February

Sun.	1st	10.30am	Mr J. Lord

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COLLECTIONS	Cash	Envelopes
Nov. 2nd	3.14½	10.37½
9th	5.87½	15.20½
16th	4.51½	10.88½
23rd	6.01½	8.02½
30th	3.51½	7.87½

Result of 1p a day brought in on Sunday morning 21st Dec. - £36.14 + Donation £15 = £51.14

Autumn Fair - 1975

Young people:		Refreshment	39.35
Cards - 90.00		Mens	32.50
Stall - 22.48	112.48	Door Money	7.15
Drapery	70.16	Donations	73.00
Tea Room	62.71		
Tombola	40.65	TOTAL	£438.00

Profit - £419.

Many thanks to everybody.

Missionary - C. W. M. - £25.57

The Manse,
January, 1976

My Dear Friends,

May I take this opportunity to thank you for so many Christmas cards received and to wish you and yours a very happy and blessed New Year.

Have you noticed that, within the last few days, a great change has taken place? Perhaps you haven't, because it was so silent, although I am sure that most motorists will have noticed that lighting up time is now just a little later each evening. Having once begun we expect the amount of light to increase every day until it culminates in the fullness of the long, golden summer days.

The Christian believes that our life on this earth has one purpose. It is that in it we are to come to know God and so to know Him that we live with Him in spirit. For many Christians this began in a very small way indeed - one might say that the amount of light they possessed was not much at all. Their hopes and ours lies in the belief that it is God's will for us that this light should grow and that He will work with us for this purpose.

You will all be familiar with the words of this poem - but just to refresh the memory it goes -

"I said to the man who stood at the gate
of the year, 'Give me a light that I
may tread safely into the unknown'.
He said, 'Go out into the darkness,
And put your hand into the hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light,
And safer than a known way'."

We can think that these are very comforting words, as no doubt they are - but it is not always easy to put your hand into the hand of God and take the way He shows you. It can be a very rough way. Many men and women of faith have taken it in the past and found it a great struggle. Were they given the option I believe they would still elect to go along with God for it is in the challenging and trying circumstances that we are forced to rely upon God and it is in such situations that we realise His Presence.

As the evenings and mornings grow lighter, will you remember the constant miracle of the way in which this occurs and that God waits to perform something equally wonderful with all who give Him the opportunity.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH

Thought for the month: ".....the darkness is passing and the real light already shines. Christ has made this true in your own experience."

1 John 2. Verse 8

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OBITUARY

Mr William Padon, aged 62, of 200 Harbour Lane, Milnrow, service on December 9th at Manchester Crematorium.

Mrs Eliza Ann Ward, aged 87, of 5 Nelson Street, Littleborough, service at Rochdale Crematorium on December, 15th.

Both Services conducted by Rev. A. Nash

We extend our deepest sympathy to families and friends

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HOLY BAPTISM

On Sunday, Dec. 7th at St. Stephen's

PHILIP STUART HEY

third son of Kenneth and Cynthia.

"May God richly bless this little child"

THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC

On Monday 15th December, 26 Pilots turned up for their party determined to enjoy themselves and they succeeded. They kicked off at 6.30 with tea supplied and served by officers and friends and the way they demolished the sandwiches, crisps, biscuits, crisps, jelly, crisps, cakes and crisps was a wonder to behold.

Games followed and parents joined the party at games time. Eventually one or two were flagging so we had "Talent Time" when we were really entertained by our conjourers, dancers, singers etc. Who is this David Nixon?

The party came to an unwilling close with carol singing to the accompaniment of Mrs Starkie. After the strains of Away In A Manger had died away they all went home, satisfied and looking forward to further festivities.

The guest of honour was Mr Harry Mellor who was presented with a small gift in appreciation of his work with the Pilots. He, in turn, gave each Pilot and Officer a small gift - Its marvellous how good Spanish tastes, even in old age. Gifts were also taken later to Mr & Mrs J. Collins who were unable to attend.

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HEATING FUND

This has now reached the grand sum of £302. We have a target of £500 to reach - this amount being about half of the total cost of installation of a new boiler and the conversion from oil to gas heating. May we remind you that on Sunday, January 18th you have a further opportunity to bring along those pennies, etc. etc. you have been saving. These gifts will be received during the Services on that day. Many thanks for all your help you have already given.

DRESSED TO KILL

Due to circumstances beyond our control the visit arranged by the Young Mums to the Shippon did not take place - instead we had an evening "at home".. with games, with eats and much fun.

Members came in fancy dress amongst which were - The blushing bride; a lady from Greece; the executioner complete with axe and head (tucked underneath his arm); Puss in boots; the waitress who proved very helpful at suppertime; a pirate complete with parrot and loot and one eye, of course; Annie Oakley; a Moroccon Lady; and a Cannibal. What a mixture!

Actually these were all very realistic and those concerned must be congratulated on such a fine show.

NO ESCAPE FOR CLAUS

The Young Mums had a highly seasonal session on 17th December when the children enacted a Nativity Scene and gave a few hints as to who the stars of tomorrow might be. This was part of a Christmas Service to which Cynthia, Brenda, Muriel and Angela all contributed.

This was followed by a little party and a visit from Santa Claus who dispensed presents for all and even got one back, himself.

Y.M.'s re-open on 7th January and then have until Friday 30th January to gather together sundry items for a Jumble Sale in aid of the Heating Fund. If you can help let us know.

A THOUGHT FOR AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Middle age is when you start eating what is good for you instead of what you like.

OH WHAT FUN TO...

The Ladies Guild indulged in another Seasonal Session of Silliness when they had their Christmas Party the other week. Mistresses of Silliness were Margaret Holden, Mildred Howarth, by whom we were highly tickled, Mrs. What a good night it was for attempting the Keen Intellectual Temptation to try Mrs Kay's Intelligence Test - Who said "Pass"?

Even the food was edible and Evelyn played the piano while Audrey kept us audible in the carol singing. Father Christmas came too, with his long white beard and a bit beside. What a simply spiffin' way to spend an evening and go home thinking of the number of days to January 6th when we have our AGM - Annual Gabbling Match. Dont miss it girls.

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Dear God,
Help us to be,
Cheerful when things go wrong: (and don't they just at times!)
Persevering when things are difficult;
Serene when things are irritating; (jolly difficult this!)
Enable us to be:
Helpful to those in difficulties;
Kind to those in need;
Sympathetic to those whose hearts are sore and sad.
Grant that:
Nothing may make us lose our tempers;
Nothing may take away our joy;
Nothing may ruffle our peace;
Nothing may make us bitter towards anybody.

(Taken from a prayer by William Barclay).

RENDERINGS ON RENDERINGS

The production of last month's "Messenger" was a nerve-racking experience, dealing as it did with a painful subject. Though the Editor tried to be fair to all sides he was prepared for some criticism and was ready to listen to it. Several people have indicated that they agreed with the way we approached the issue but, though that is flattering, it would have been a more productive exercise if those who had reservations had entered into a dialogue with us. Communication is the basis of human relationships. We must of course respect the wishes of those who prefer to maintain the "dignity of silence".

Only one person has written to us on the matter and though the comments are embarrassing (in the nicest possible way) we are honour bound to publish the letter:

"Although he will be with us for many years to come, I hope, I would like to pay tribute to our Editor, Ian Royle. Not being a literary genius I will keep my comments fairly short. My thanks are for the December issue of the "Messenger". I believe it would have taken a lot of time, effort and soul searching to compile, but also including complete sincerity. I also think this edition was necessary.

"I wish Ian all the best with his new, handsome self after his own trials and two stays in hospital recently. Cynthia Hey"

Thank you very much, Love!

A PRAYER FOR WHEN THEY PRAISE YOU

I thank thee, Lord, for knowing me better than I know myself, and for letting me know myself better than others know me.

Make me, I pray Thee, better than they suppose and forgive me what they do not know.

(Not a Christian prayer but by Mohammed's Father-in-law, ABU BEKR in the 6th Century).

Poor boy makes really good

WILLIAM QUARRIER was born in Greenock in Scotland, in 1829, and brought up by his widowed mother in grinding poverty and frequent hunger which made a lasting impression upon his character. He went to work at the age of seven in a pin factory for a shilling a week. Later he became a shoemaker and eventually by hard work, the proprietor of a chain of boot shops in Glasgow, and a man of influence in civic affairs.

At the age of 23 he was converted and became a member of a Baptist Church in Glasgow. His early experience led him to dedicate his life to helping destitute children, and in particular to giving them the benefit of real 'family' life. This led him to build cottages in the country where orphans could be placed in 'family' groups. He founded the Bridge of Weir Homes which are still carrying on the work although he died in 1903.

It is said that his heart was full of joy because he had been able to serve the Lord Jesus by helping the children. What a fine Christian!

(Much has been said recently to the effect that more Foster Parents are needed for orphaned children or those who have been put "in care" for one reason or the other. We are reminded that the same concern as felt by William Quarrier should be ours today - children still need the benefit of real 'family' life).

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O Lord, when I awake and day begins
Waken me to Thy presence;
Waken me to Thy indwelling;
Waken me to inward sight of Thee,
And speech with Thee and strength from Thee;
That all my earthly walk may waken into song
And my spirit leap up to Thee all day,
All ways.

Eric Milner-White.

LITTLEROW MEETS MILNBOROUGH

LADIES GUILD -- The Christmas Party was a huge success - much laughter - much music - many games - goodies to eat.

Thank you to all who made this such a happy occasion and especially to Mrs K. Hill for organising the food.

We now look forward to many interesting evenings during 1976, the first of which will take place on Tuesday, January 20th when the Members of the Guild at St. Stephen's will join us for the evening.

May we invite any lady, younger or older, no matter, to come and have a time of fellowship with us in Ladies Guild. Jan. 20th at 7.30pm

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OH COME ON ALL YE FAITHFUL!

The appeal made during church notices and in last month's magazine for church cleaners has, so far, "fallen on stony ground". Do, please, stir yourselves and come and give us a lift with the remaining work. Those who have been toiling since November are now beginning to wilt a bit and reinforcements would be welcomed. To those who have laboured we say "thank you" and add a word of gratitude to Mr Harrison for the loan of his "electric scrubber". What would we have done without it?

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IT TAKES ALL KINDS

All my neighbours at me stare,

'Cos being normal is so rare;

Every night I pray to God,

To make me just a little odd.

SORORIAL SENTIMENTS

Mrs K. Hill writes: "It is my custom at the year end to thank the Editor and magazine production team for their efforts, as without them we would have no newsletter in Littleborough and we appreciate the work they do.

Following her resignation, a special thank you to Mrs Emmott for all the typing and duplicating done over the years. A word of appreciation too for the resigning Elders who have served the Church at Littleborough; taking services and meetings, augmenting the choir, accompanying our youngsters on weekends and numerous other things, and being happy doing it."

Thanks, Kathleen. You, of course, are a vital part of the "Messenger" team. As reporter-at-large and commentator on Littleborough affairs you are an invaluable help. We hope to see plenty of news flowing from Victoria Street in 1976.

FRATERNAL FAILINGS

Lest anyone thinks from the above that the "Messenger" team are dissolving into a mutual admiration society, here is a story of editorial incompetence for which suitable rebukes have been made and penitence is here rendered.

The facts of the Pilots' enrolment service on November 23rd were mis-reported because the editor cannot read straight. The correct (I hope) version is:

Stephanie Hill, Caroline Butterworth, Martin Fielden, Vicky Gibson, Wendy Spinks and Andrew Greenwood were enrolled as Ordinary Seamen and Juniors.

Dena Silcock and Sharon Dearden enrolled as Seniors.

The following were promoted to Senior, Andrea Stretton (Leading Seaman), Tracey Greenwood and Stephen Fielden (Acting Able Seamen) and David Armitage.

Sorry, folks!

WHO OR WHAT IS A PILOT?

.....A continuation of the article by Mrs Vincent, which we began in last month's "Messenger".....

"There are 5 grades through which a Pilot may progress and preparation for the graded tests are an essential part of the company's programme. New pilots are, for the first two weeks before enrollment, known as Deckhands. At enrollment they enter grade 1 - Ordinary Seaman. They then work through the successive grades:-

Grade 2 Acting Able Seaman
Grade 3 Able Seaman
Grade 4 Leading Seaman
Grade 5 Petty Officer

Before progressing from one grade to another each pilot must complete all the specified tests for which crests are awarded. They are arranged in the following categories.

LEARNING

TALENT PRAYING

SKILL CHURCH

SERVICE

Pilots should also gain a Voyage Crest. This is awarded for satisfactory completion of the course which all pilots follow during the year. This year our Voyage is entitled "No Man Is An Island" and is concerned with the interdependence of men."

So now you know who and what a pilot is. We are grateful to Mrs Vincent for this lucid contribution and we wish her and her crew well on their present voyage.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 4th	Mrs Crossley	Mr. E. Holt	
11th	Mr. H.N.Hill	Mr F. Beattie	a.m.
	Mr. R.Mullen	Mr E. Holt	p.m.
18th	Mr. J. Lord	Mrs Stott	
25th	Mr. J. Holt	Mr. J. Hill	
Feb. 1st	Mr. J. Nairn	Mrs Crossley	

ELDERS COMMUNION ROTA

Jan.11th	Mr J. Lord	Mr F. Beattie	p.m.
25th	Mr F. Simpson	Mr J. Nairn	a.m.

COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 4th	J.Allison	B.Allison
11th	A.Merrick	B.Merrick
18th	B.Holt	A.Wall
25th	J.Law	W.Law
Feb. 1st	W.Spinks	J.Hobbs

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Jan. 4th	K. Hill
11th	M. Law
18th	R. Mullen
25th	H. Vincent
Feb. 1st	M. Grindrod

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

FLOWERS FOR COMMUNION TABLE

Jan. 4th	Mrs Hill
11th	Mrs Mellor
18th	Mrs Arthur
25th	Mrs Ingham
Feb. 1st	Mrs White

Organist/Pianist

Jan. 4th	Mrs M. Hill	
11th	Miss L.Merrick	a.m.
	Mrs M. Hill	p.m.
18th	Mrs E. Cockroft	
25th	Miss L. Merrick	

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE"

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW

FAMILY CHURCH DOOR STEWARDS

Jan. 4th	Mr A. Rae	Mr G. Buckley
11th	Mrs J. Duffy	Mrs A. Baines
18th	Mrs F. Rae	Mrs P. Royle
25th	Mrs M. Holden	K. Holden
Feb. 1st	Mr J. Harrison	Mr I. Royle
8th	Mr J. Collins	Stephen Collins

ELDERS ROTA

	EVENING DOOR STEWARDS	DUTY ELDER	ORGANIST/PIANIST EVENING WORSHIP
Jan.			
4th	Mr J. Wild	Mr B. Clough	Mr D. Logan
11th	Mrs M. Howarth	Mr D. Munday	
18th	Mr B. Clough	Mr A. Busill	
25th	Mr A. Sharples	Mr J. Wild	
Feb. 1	Mr D. Munday	Mr A. Sharples	Mr D. Logan
8	Mr A. Busill	Mr H. Whitehead	

COMMUNION ROTA

Jan. 4th	Mr J. Wild	Mr A. Busill	
18th	Mr H. Whitehead	Mr B. Clough)	a.m.
	Mr A. Sharples	Mr D. Munday)	
Feb. 1st	Mrs M. Howarth	Mr A. Busill	

FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

Jan. 4th	Mrs A. Wood	Mrs E. Garside
11th	Mrs J. Munday	Mrs M. Ogden
18th	Mrs E. Smith	Mrs H. Buckley
25th	Mrs H. Whitehead	Mrs P. Greenhalgh
Feb. 1st	Mrs J. Duffy	Mrs F. Butterworth
8th	Mrs J. Cudworth	Mrs N. Settle

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute

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COLLECTIONS	Cash am	Cash pm	Envelopes	Total
Nov. 2nd	7.52	1.25	22.19	30.96
9th	7.96	1.01	16.73	25.70
16th	13.45	1.95	13.57	28.97
23rd	8.24	1.55	21.18	30.97
30th	6.97	.65	13.22	20.84
	£44.14	£6.41	£86.89	£137.44